

EM SSAB Chairs Conference Call

December 17, 2015

Participants

Board

Hanford

Idaho

Nevada

Northern New Mexico
Oak Ridge

Paducah

Portsmouth

Savannah River

Chairs/Representatives

Steve Hudson, Susan Leckband

Herb Bohrer

Donna Hruska, Janice
Keiserman

Doug Sayre, Gerard Martinez
Belinda Price, Alfreda Cook

Doreen (Renie) Barger

Will Henderson, Bob Berry

Harold Simon, Nina Spinelli

Site Staff

Kristen Skopeck, Sharon Braswell,
Joni Grindstaff

Jordan Davies

Kelly Snyder, Barbara Ulmer

Menice Santistevan, Mike Gardipe
David Adler, Pete Osborne,
Spencer Gross,

Buz Smith, Eric Roberts

Rick Greene, Julie Galloway

de'Lisa Carrico, Tina Watson, Jim
Giusti

DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-1

Monica Regalbuto

EM-3.2

Kristen Ellis, Dave Borak, Elizabeth Schmitt, Allison Finelli, Michelle
Hudson, Jared Bierbach

EM-60

Bart Barnhart, Connie Flohr, Eva Isa

Opening Remarks

Mr. Dave Borak, Designated Federal Officer for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order and introduced new staff.

Remarks from Dr. Monica Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Dr. Regalbuto introduced herself to the members and thanked them for their time. She emphasized the impact the volunteer advisory boards have on the EM program. Federal and contractor staff may come and go, but the stakeholders are the ones who provide continuity to the EM mission. Dr. Regalbuto shared a few highlights from the past year, including continued recovery progress of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). She also noted work at the Oak Ridge site's East Tennessee Technology Park, and the Idaho National Laboratory. The outlook for EM's FY 2016 funding levels is positive, which will allow the program to continue making significant progress in the next year.

Budget Update

Mr. Bart Barnhart, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning & Budget, gave a rundown of the proposed FY 2016 budget, and spoke briefly about FY 2017 and potential impacts of the Bipartisan Budget Act (which is a framework of agreed upon principles and not an actual appropriation).

The draft omnibus for FY 2016 includes \$6.2 billion for the EM program, which is a \$400 million plus-up over the request level. Highlights include:

- An extra \$57M for Carlsbad above request, \$44M for operations, \$12M for characterization activities;
- \$35M for Idaho above request for tank waste activities
- \$108M above request for Oak Ridge decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities, and solid waste projects
- \$31M dollars above request for Paducah D&D activities
- \$60M above request for Portsmouth D&D
- And at Richland an additional \$74M for river corridor cleanup and \$5M for community and regulatory support.

With regard to FY 2017, EM has presented their proposed budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); OMB's "pass-back" came back to the Department in early December. DOE and OMB are working a final number for the FY 2017 request, the specifics are currently embargoed. These steps are a part of the lead up to the rollout of the President's budget request in early February.

The bipartisan budget deal raised the federal government debt limit through March 2017, which reduced the risk of a government shutdown, by establishing a framework agreement. The deal also raised the sequester budget caps, which will help the Department in future years.

HQ will issue guidance to the sites directing them to engage local stakeholders in developing program priorities as part of the FY 2018 budget development process. A memo detailing this will be forthcoming after the budget rollout.

Chairs' Meeting Update

Mr. Borak confirmed that the next EM SSAB Chairs Meeting would be held on April 19-21, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and thanked the Oak Ridge SSAB (ORSSAB) for hosting the event. Mr. Pete Osborne from the ORSSAB staff reported that the tour would be held on April 19 and would last approximately 4 hours with a tentative start time of 9:00 AM. The meeting will be at the Doubletree in Oak Ridge on April 20-21. Mr. Borak solicited volunteers for the Chairs Meeting Planning Committee, and asked them to contact him via email. Mr. Doug Sayre of the Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board suggested adding a WIPP Update to the Chairs' meeting agenda. Ms. Susan Leckband of the Hanford Advisory Board encouraged Dr. Regalbuto to attend and emphasized the importance of senior management participation in the meeting.

Other Business

None. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM EST.